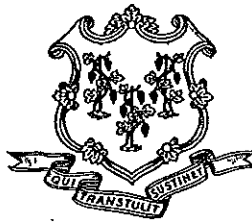


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February 20, 2013

Good morning Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrera and members of the Transportation Committee. I would like to express my support for SB, 190 AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL PENALTIES FOR RETRIEVAL OF A DIRT BIKE AND ESTABLISHING A TITLE SYSTEM FOR DIRT BIKE OWNERSHIP.

Dirt bikes have become a scourge in the City of New Haven. They create unsafe conditions for pedestrians and motorists and decrease the quality of life for residents. They are also unsafe for riders.

Dirt Bikes do not have the array of the safety features that road safe vehicles possess. They often lack blinkers, mirrors, and lights. This absence of protective features is hazardous for road-safe automobiles and motorcycles as well as for pedestrians. The other vehicles and the pedestrians have no way to know where the dirt bikes are

headed or what they are going to do next. In addition, dirt bike tires are designed for traction on dirt trails and are frequently unsafe on asphalt. The loud whir of dirt bikes racing on the street and sidewalk late into the evening constitutes a nuisance in urban areas

SB 190 would allow a municipality to set a maximum penalty of two thousand dollars for retrieval of a dirt bike confiscated due to a violation of a municipal regulation or ordinance, and it would also create a title system for dirt bike ownership so that such ownership can be tracked. I would also support a provision permitting the destruction of a dirt bike that was confiscated for a second such a violation. These provisions may not solve the entire problem of dirt bikes in the City, but it would constitute a good first step. Thank you for raising this important legislation